

Three teams impress at the Regional Teen Biz Challenge

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The audience and judges at the 2015 Regional Teen Biz Challenge in Española liked the three competing teams so well that they did not pick an overall winner and instead recognized each team for a specific strength:

- The “Ready, Set, Snap” team from Española for the best financial projections (Teens Maria Roybal and Amabilis Baca).
- The “Moto Mania Motocross Rentals” team from the Velarde-Española area for the best chance for expansion (Teens Miranda and Kamryn Lopez).
- “Sam’s Commercials” from Los Alamos for the favorite presentation (Teen Sam Crook).

Each team received a cash prize of \$400.

The challenge was sponsored by the Española Valley Chamber of Commerce; Los Alamos National Laboratory; and Los Alamos National Security, LLC. The Valley Entrepreneurial Network and the Greater Española Valley Community Development Corporation hosted the event.

Ready, Set, Snap

The 2015 Regional Teen Biz Challenge was the second regional teen biz competition for the Ready, Set, Snap team's Maria Roybal, and Roybal also is getting ready for the 2015 Miss Teen National that will take place in Orlando, Florida, in December.

The Ready, Set, Snap business model—a mobile shop selling photography accessories at state-wide events—is based on Roybal's interest in photography and her love of travel and tourism. After graduating from high school, Roybal plans to go abroad for a year to do humanitarian work before attending college.

"I particularly would like to help underprivileged children," Roybal said, "including orphans and refugees."

With a performance and visual arts degree in hand, Roybal hopes to later build on her goals by specializing in photography work for humanitarian projects.

But she also wants to maintain her interest in business.

"I've had a great passion for entrepreneurship for as long as I can remember," Roybal explains. "My Teen Biz Challenge experience over the past two years has been more than amazing. I love competing and working with a team while adding to my business skills. I have a much better idea now of what it takes to start a successful business and strengthen a local community's economic base."

To stay abreast of northern New Mexico's 2016 teen biz competitions, check Community Connections or contact Vangie Trujillo in the Laboratory's Community Programs Office (Vangie@lanl.gov).

Community Connections features news and opportunities that grow out of the Laboratory's Good Neighbor Pledge: "To partner with our neighbors on strengthening math and science learning, diversifying the economy and expanding community giving in northern New Mexico."

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